**2**9th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**15 - 26 January 2018, Geneva**

**Review of France**

**15 January 2018**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |

Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of France to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation, and take positive note of the national report.

The Maldives is encouraged by the numerous legislative and constitutional measures taken to ensure gender parity in political and public life. In this regard, we welcome the 2014 Act on genuine equality between women and men which aims to improve their daily lives, advance their rights and change mentalities; and extends the principle of parity to all areas of responsibility.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives recommends France to :

1. Continue to strengthen and reform the social protection system to cover all persons, including those from the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

We wish France every success at this review. Thank you, Mr. President.